

VULCAN DETINNING TROUBLES AIRED

**Ex-Secretary Accuses Directors
of Getting Gratuities—
They Deny It.**

CALL MADE FOR PROXIES

**Stockholders Advised to Sign
for Muir, Worring
and Hull.**

Charles P. Hull, ex-secretary of the Vulcan Detinning Company, explained yesterday why after fourteen years with the company he is assisting John Muir & Co. in an attempt to oust the management. Mr. Hull makes charges of neglect and extravagance against the president, directors and other officers.

He says that the seven directors hold weekly meetings for which each gets a fee of \$20 or \$7,000 a year. In addition the executive committee recently increased from three to five, meets once a month and gets a fee. He cites cases where directors have been voted sums of more than \$1,000 as gifts or for special services and says that the perquisites of the president for one year amounted to \$324. Mr. Hull urges the stockholders to assume the management themselves and place it in the hands of a representative board.

The stockholders are advised to sign proxies in favor of John Muir, Robert L. Worring and Charles P. Hull.

The directors replied that they are men experienced in the detinning business. They allege that Muir & Co. are holders of record of only 230 shares of the preferred stock out of a total issue of 15,000 and 1,193 shares of the common out of 20,000, and yet they want the management turned over to them or Mr. Hull. They say that Mr. Hull left the company when his salary was not raised.

It is admitted that the special committee held meetings often, sometimes every day for three months, and that for their labor the members got total of \$4,125.

Nicoll & Co., of which one of the directors is a member, is admitted to have supplied the company with valuable information for several years, for which he received \$6,500, and other officers of the company got money for services, but outside of actual service no gratuities were paid.

The directors say that their policy has been one of economy and best suited to the interest of the company.

COCOANUT USERS PROTEST.

**Say Proposed Tariff Would Put
Them Out of Business.**

Le Scheppe & Co., cocoon manufacturers at Duane and Hudson streets, received letters yesterday from Representative Udell, chairman of the House Committee on Manufactures and Mercantile Taxation indicating Mr. Scheppe that the question of the proposed duty of 10 per cent on cocoanuts in the new tariff bill would receive special attention from President Wilson. Cocoonists have heretofore been on the free list and should the new tariff bill go through, Mr. Scheppe says, the cocoanuts will be put under import duty.

The cocoanut business in this country has been precarious owing to the keen competition with the Ceylon product, on which a duty of two cents a pound has been imposed to enable the home industry to survive. In the new tariff bill the duty of 10 per cent on cocoanuts would be the same as under the Payne-Aldrich tariff, but the proposed duty on the raw product, which really amounts to \$15 a thousand pounds, will put the cocoanut manufacturers in jeopardy.

"A serious mistake has been made," says Mr. Scheppe, "in that the proposed tariff bill does not well clear up import-export statistics. One hundred selected cocoanuts weigh 150 pounds. The outer shell removed and the water let out the nuts will yield about 68 pounds of wet meat. The nuts are then peeled at a loss of six pounds, leaving sixty pounds dried at a further loss of 45 cents a pound. Thus we will lose 33 pounds of dry meat.

Thus a duty of one cent a pound on the 100 cocoanuts weighing 150 pounds would be \$15.00, equal to about five cents a pound on 33 pounds, which the home manufacturer would have to pay while the Ceylon sellers would put two cents a pound on 33 pounds, or 66 cents only."

"The situation is so bad we could not survive. What we must have for existence is free cocoanuts, and for an assurance to hold trade in the future there must be an additional tariff of one cent a pound on foreign goods."

Cocoonists workers in this country receive from \$9 to \$15 a week, while in Ceylon they receive from \$1 to \$5.50 a week.

HUNT FOR FRUIT CO. FACTS.

**Federal Grand Jury Hears Several
More Witnesses.**

The Federal Grand Jury resumed yesterday its investigation of the charges against the United Fruit Company. The session occupied about two hours in the afternoon, in the course of which several witnesses were examined. The inquiry was given up yesterday, but no definite results can be expected for at least two weeks. The April Grand Jury has been assigned to this case exclusively and a special Grand Jury will be empaneled to take care of other matters.

COPPER ON 15-3-4 CENT BASIS.

**Predicted Advance Materializes—
Higher Prices Announced From
Abroad.**

The prediction made by THE SUN yesterday that copper would probably be advanced during the day became a reality when cables from London said that the American Smelting and Refining Company and Phelps Dodge & Co. had put up their price to \$72.100. Amalgamated sold at \$72.12 later raised its price to \$72.50.

The prediction held firm through the day, with fair business清淡地 located at the advance. Private advice from abroad showed that while a good non-consumptive demand appeared both in England and on the Continent, there are no indications that present rates of actual melting will increase in the immediate future.

The Government report of February shipments of copper came to hand during the day, showing total exports of 77,380,071 pounds having a value of \$10,614,250. For the eight months period ending with February, total exports of 917,960,000 pounds had been cleared, a material increase of when compared with the 534,813,000 reported in the corresponding period of a year ago, and 530,623,285 pounds two years ago.

In February, according to the Government, amounted to 9,450,432 pounds in ore and matte, and 21,372,292 pounds in pigs, ingots, &c. The eight months receipts totaled 309,499,573, a record as compared with 182,352,076 pounds a year ago.

WOOL MEN ASK TARIFF LEESWAY.

**Want Congress to Give Them Time
to Adjust Business.**

A committee of leading woolen importers and manufacturers of this city will go to Washington today to ask Congress for a provision in the tariff bill for two or three months leeway between the time that new rules go on the free list and the time that the reductions in the manufacture of goods go into effect.

H. Van Ingen & Co. are the leaders in the movement. Business in woolens, the manufacturers and importers say, is being paralyzed by the uncertainty as to the time that the new tariff is to go into effect and the whole fall season trade is likely to be seriously crippled unless the duty imposed on imports comes as a part of the bill and announced at once.

The manufacturers wait time to meet the foreign invasion of manufactured goods when the protection duties are taken off by having had the benefit of free wool for at least two or three months previous.

The second essential to save the fall trade is that the new tariff provisions on both raw wool and manufactured articles do not go into effect until January 1.

STEEL PIPE HIGHER.

**National Tube Company Puts Up
Price \$1 a Ton.**

The National Tube Company has made an advance of a ton a day for medium steel pipe, it is expected that the independent makers will follow this advance. The demand for steel pipe has been heavy and makers are booked well ahead. The advance resulted from the large order for steel pipe and plates placed by the Standard Oil Company with the United States Steel Corporation last week. Practically all kinds of steel pipe save oil country products are included in the advance, and the price of the latter will probably be put up a corresponding amount in the near future. Higher prices for iron pipe are not expected to result.

The Seaboard Air Line is in the market for locomotives, box cars and open-frame box cars and 50 cars of oil tanks.

Pig iron continues dull, although moderately large orders have been reported in scattered instances during the last week or two. Prices are a little improved from the recent low, but the long expected increase in demand has not materialized, and until it does higher prices are not looked for as a general rule. Concessions are made in nearly all grades of iron save those used for steel making, which is in great demand. Some consumers have taken the stand that they will not place their orders for iron until there is a sharp rise in price, but the market is in the industry look for such cuts to be made, soon because furnaces cannot get orders any other way. On the other hand stocks both in the hands of makers and consumers both in the hands of makers and consumers both in the hands of makers and consumers before furnaces are ready to cut their prices.

THE CURB MARKET.

Trading yesterday was leisure, with prices displaying a heavy tone. United Cigar Stores common declined from \$2 to \$0, a new low level for the year. Covering of shorts later caused a rally and the stock closed at \$3.50, up 10 cents on the day. British American Tobacco was weak yesterday, closing at \$3.50, down 10 cents.

Products preferred opened down 24 points at \$85.50, but later recovered and closed at \$87. Lethbridge Coal Sales Company, after opening up at \$2.20, declined and closed at \$1.50. Willys-Overland declined 1. Copperers were lower. Braden's British Columbia copper lost 10 cents. The Canadian was weak, closing at \$3.50, down 10 cents.

Little was done in bonds. There was a transaction in the B. R. T. 5s at \$55.50, but the close was lower at \$55.11-16. Western Pacific 5s were unchanged from the last previous sale at \$54.

Transactions in detail in the market yesterday were as follows:

OPEN HIGH LOW CLOSE

Sales est. est. est. est.

1 Am Light & Trac 300 300 290 290

2 Am Gold M 150 150 150 150

3 Am Gold Dr 150 150 150 150

4 Am Brass 85 85 85 85

5 Am Br Four 85 85 85 85

6 Am Brit Am Tbl 250 250 240 240

7 Am Brit Cpl 250 250 240 240

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